(b) and (c) The Central Government are in the process of formulating a National Rural Connectivity Programme and have set up a National Rural Road Development Committee whose recommendations are awaited.

Employment generation schemes in Assam

1485. SHRI PRAKANTA WARISA: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have launched any schemes and programmes to provide employment to the people of Assam in rural areas;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the reaction of Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI SUNDER LAL PATWA): (a) and (b) Jawahar Gram Samriddhi Yojana (JGSY), Employment Assurance Scheme (EAS) and Swarnjayanti Gram Swarojgar Yojana (SGSY) are the major employment generation schemes launched by this Ministry in rural areas throughout the country, including the State of Assam. The objective of JGSY is the creation of demand driven community village infrastructure and generation of supplementary employment for the unemployed poor in rural areas. EAS in the single wage employment programme for creation of additional wage employment through manual work for the rural poor. SGSY is a self-employment programme aimed at providing employment by establishing micro-enterprises in the rural areas.

(c) and (d) Do not arise.

Consolidation of land

1486. DR. GOPAL RAO VITHALRAO PATIL: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that worried about the growing fragmentation of farm properties, the Centre has decided to conduct a massive operation for consolidation of land holdings, including computerization of all land records in the country;

(b) whether it is also a fact that Ministry of Rural Development has drawn up an action plan to stop fragmentation of land; and

(c) if so, the details of the action plan?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. The Government of India is concerned about the fragmentation of land holdings. Under the scheme of computerisation of Land Records, funds are provided to the State Governments to computerise such records down to taluka level. Besides, a National Committee to look into all aspects of consolidation of land holdings and updating of land records through technological interventions has also been set up and the Committee has already commenced its work.

Villages connected with roads

†1487. SHRI RAGHAVJI: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the steps being taken by Government for the construction of roads in rural areas;

(b) whether any scheme is being formulated with regard to connecting all the villages having population of five hundred with pucca road;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the number of villages in each State which has population of more than five hundred but which had not been connected by roads as on 31st December, 1999?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI SUBHASH MAHARIA): (a) to (c) The Central Government is in the process of drawing up a National Programme for Rural Connectivity, the contours of which are being formulated. A National Rural Road Development Committee

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.